

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARIES
The Jones Library, Munson Memorial Library, North Amherst Library
Fiscal Year 2011

Vision Statement: We believe in the freedom to read, to learn, to discover, to change our lives.

Mission Statement: We serve and inspire people of all ages by providing multi-cultural resources for lifelong learning. We welcome everyone to historic buildings. We celebrate our Amherst history and literary heritage, including American poets Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost.

A Year of Transition

On December 10, 2010, Jones Library Director Bonnie Isman retired after serving as the fifth Jones Library Director for 30 years. Ms. Isman had served as the Adult Services Librarian at The Jones and after four years in that position, she left to be a librarian in the Virgin Islands. Ms. Isman returned to The Jones in 1980 to assume the role of Director.

On December 7, 2010, a gala retirement party, organized with the help of Katie George and the Friends of the Jones Library, was held at the Library. At the party, Ms. Isman was honored by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, as well as by State Representative Ellen Story and State Senator Stanley C. Rosenberg, both of Amherst, who awarded her a Resolution from the Legislature.

On December 11, 2010, Tevis Kimball, Curator of Special Collections, became Acting Director of The Jones Library. Assisted by an interim team of George Hicks, Maintenance Supervisor, Sondra Radosh, Children's Librarian, and Maggie Spiegel, North Amherst Librarian, the day-to-day management of the Library continued. Pending the appointment of a new Director, a new transition team which included Tevis Kimball, Matthew Berube, newly hired Head of Information Services, and George Hicks was appointed in June of 2011.

On January 14, 2011, after 29 years at The Jones, Beth Girshman, Adult Services Librarian, left.

The search for a new Director consumed much of FY 11.

Community Partnerships

Librarians worked with many groups in the community to present educational and cultural events, including the following:

The Jubilat/Jones Poetry Series held four readings by well known poets. These events, organized by graduate students from the University of Massachusetts, were sponsored by the Friends of the Jones Library and the Amherst Cultural Council. After Ms. Isman's departure, these readings were coordinated by Maggie Spiegel.

The Friends of the Jones Library, assisted by a grant from the Amherst Cultural Council, funded five free children's music concerts starring professional performers such as Klezmir and Davis Bates and Roger Tincknell. This music series was coordinated by Sondra Radosh.

Over three hundred children participated in the Summer Reading Club events held at the Jones, North Amherst, and Munson Memorial Libraries.

The Jones Library continued to promote reading to second grade classes from all Amherst elementary schools. The Friends of the Jones Library sponsored free books and snacks for each student and Library staff gave tours and read stories.

The Jones Library's ESL Coordinator, Lynne Weintraub, in partnership with Amherst Regional High School and the Collaborative for Educational Services, worked to place ten parents of ARHS students with "parent partners" to help them with English skills and to participate in their children's school experience.

Special Collections held a number of programs to highlight the rich holdings of the archives to local college and school groups, as well as for groups visiting Amherst.

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and as part of an LSTA grant, Janet Ryan coordinated a series of programs were held at the Library, including a musical concert for the whole family by José González and the Banda Criolla, a program presented by Martín Espada called "The Redemption of Pablo Neruda" that explored the evolution of Neruda as a poet, and a screening of the feature film "La Misma Luna/Under the Same Moon."

As part of an LSTA grant, The Jones hosted Spanish language computer classes in the summer and again in the fall.

Budget Impact

As part of the process of decreasing a \$111,000 deficit to \$81,000, a strong partnership was forged between the Town Manager, the schools, and the Library.

A \$30,000 reduction in Library State Aid available for use was the result of the Trustees of The Jones Library having voted to spend all of the Library State Aid in the year in which the aid is received. This complicated budget formulation since the FY 12 Budget was the first year that the Library experienced the full impact of this decision.

Donor Generosity

Donors to the Library's Annual Fund Drive contributed \$49,428 for new operating expenses. The Friends of the Jones Library System donated \$18,694 to sponsor free public programs, such as Mystery Desserts (a panel of mystery writers) and Sing with Your Baby (sing-along programs for pre-schoolers), and \$10,000 to purchase new books and audio books. ESL received donations amounting to \$4,795. Memorial contributions totaling \$1,240 were gratefully received from the family and friends of John Roberts and Jean Johnson Laino.

We will continue to depend on the generosity of the public to meet our revenue requirements. Thank you so much for your support.

The Jones Library, Inc. Endowment

The Library's investment advisors reported the June 30, 2011 market value of the Jones Library, Inc. endowment as \$8.3 Million which included the Woodbury Gift of approximately \$700,000.